

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 9, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 as being anticipated by U.S. 6,536,465 (David et al.) and claims 1-3 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. 812,030 (Ericson). Reconsideration of these rejections, in view of the amendments to the claims, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5, the independent claims pending in the application, now further define the baffle arrangement as having a baffle housing with an interior. The claims recite the sealing member sealing the interior of the baffle housing in a fluid tight manner and shielded from the fluid stream by the housing so as not to be moved against the valve seat by the fluid stream. Furthermore, the claims recite an unshielded position where the sealing member does not seal the interior and is movable against the valve seat by the fluid stream, thereby sealing the outlet. The baffle housing is depicted in Figures 1-4. Likewise, recitation of the sealing members sealing the interior of the housing in a fluid tight manner when in the shielded position can be seen in Figures 1, 3 and 4 and described in the first full paragraph on page 3. The benefits of the sealing of the baffle housing are recited on page 15, lines 3-11.

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to state that the baffle housing comprises a top wall and a side wall extending therefrom. This subject matter is seen in Figures 1-4.

David et al. discloses a shut-off assembly having a poppet shielded by a deflector disk. However, the baffle housing does not have an interior sealed in a fluid tight manner by a sealing member. The deflector disk is cleaner and no teaching or suggestion of a housing with an interior is disclosed.


Ericson discloses a bell-shaped hood and rounded sealing member but there is no disclosure of the sealing member sealing the

interior of the hood in a fluid tight manner. In fact, there can be no sealing of the hood when the sealing member is in the shielded position because the sealing member is smaller than the bottom of the hood. On page 1, lines 53-56 and lines 107-110, the valve is described as lying within the hood, not sealed thereto.

The claims are allowable and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, and the Examiner believes a telephone conversation would resolve such issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

If any fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

by   
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